

Message Text

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60

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /101 W

----- 074815

R 091208Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 600

INFO USMISSITN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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GENEVA FOR USDEL MTN

DEPT PASS STR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) STATE 141388, B) BANGKOK 14216

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFFS CALLED ON MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS TO PRESENT U.S. POSITION ON TP NEGOTIATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL A. INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS ON U.S. REQUESTS ARE STILL BEING HELD, WITH FINAL DECISION TO BE CONTINGENT ON OTHER ASEAN POSITIONS, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL CABINET APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

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2. E/C COUNSELOR AND COML. ATTACHE CALLED ON PHOT INGANINANDA,

DIRECTOR OF TRADE POLICY DIVISION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND HIS ASSISTANT, KARUN KITTISATAPORN, JULY 9 TO REVIEW U.S. POSITION IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS IN CONTEXT REFTEL A, WITH EMPHASIS ON PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 8(D). BOTH PHOT AND KARUN HAD PARTICIPATED IN THIRD ROUND OF GENEVA TP NEGOTIATIONS AND SEEMED ALREADY QUITE AWARE OF U.S. RATIONALE ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY LDC'S TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT A DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AS TO WHAT RTG RESPONSE WILL BE. PHOT GAVE EMBOFFS COPY OF U.S. REQUESTS FOR CONCESSIONS FROM THAILAND (WHICH HAD BEEN LABELED "SECRET"), AND SAID THESE ARE NOW UNDERGOING INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL STUDY; POSSIBILITY THAT THAILAND WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO SOME OR ALL OF U.S. REQUESTS THUS CANNOT BE RULED OUT. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO STATED THAT FINAL RESPONSE WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER CONSULTING WITH "COLLEAGUE COUNTRIES" AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EVENTUAL CABINET APPROVAL.

3. ASKED WHETHER REFERENCE TO "COLLEAGUE COUNTRIES" REFERRED TO ASEAN COUNTRIES OR TO GROUP OF 77, PHOT SAID PRIMARILY ASEAN, BUT ADMITTED THAT NO DATE OR PLACE HAS BEEN SET FOR HOLDING SUCH ASEAN DISCUSSIONS. (PHOT ALSO CITED SECTION III 5 (A) OF GROUP OF 77'S MANILA DECLARATION, CALLING FOR "STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT OF NON-RECIPROCITY".)

4. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. REQUEST LIST, PHOT SAID THAT "IF RTG SHOULD AGREE TO GRANT CONCESSIONS REQUESTED BY USG", HE THOUGHT FINAL FIVE ITEMS (EX 8410B, EX 8412, EX 8415A(2), 8465, AND EX 9803) WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE LEAST PROBLEMS FOR RTG. ON THE OTHER THREE ITEMS, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL BEING HELD WITH CUSTOMS DEPT., HE SAID THERE WAS SOME QUESTION ABOUT RATIONALE OF 02.02 ("THAILAND ALREADY RAISES POULTRY"). HE THOUGHT 11.01.02 MIGHT CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS, BECAUSE SEVERAL THAI MILLS ARE NOW OPERATING, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING HE DID NOT KNOW DETAILS OR RATIONALE OF ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION, EMBOFFS POINTED OUT IMPORT TAX IS HIGHER FOR U.S. AND CANADIAN FLOUR THAN AUSTRALIAN. PHOT INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH CUSTOMS. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT WAS MEANT BY EX 2107B ("DOES HIS MEAN CONCENTRATE FOR MAKING COCA-COLA, PEPSI-COLA, ETC.?") E/C COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD ASK FOR CLARIFICATION FROM DEPT. OR GENEVA.

5. KARUN SAID MINISTRY WAS HAVING SOME PROBLEMS IN COLLATING BTN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND TSUS NUMBERS ON VARIOUS U.S. OFFERS AND REQUESTS, WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE. (CAN DEPARTMENT HELP?)

6. COMMENT: PHOT'S PERSONAL REACTION TO U.S. RRATIONALE SEEMED REASONABLY POSITIVE, AND HE ALSO SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND NECESSITY FOR USG TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CONGRESS AND DOMESTIC CONSTITUENCIES. HIS TECHNICAL RECOMMENDAIONS SHOULD CARRY WEIGHT WHEN CABINET

EVENTUALLY MAKES A DECISION. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT RTG RESPONSE WILL DEPEND, AT LEAST IN PART, ON POSITIONS TAKEN BY OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. ALSO, NOT A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THAI SIDE SINCE TRANSMITTAL OF REFTEL B. WITH INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS STILL BEING HELD AND NO PLANS YET MADE TO HOLD ASEAN DISCUSSIONS, IT WILL PROBABLY BE SOME TIME BEFORE FINAL RTG REACTIONS WILL BE KNOWN. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING

CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 ABOVE,
WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH PHOT.

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